

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A deck comprising at least one floorboard having a top and a pair of opposed sides, at least two couplings each defining a channel therein and being positioned adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the floorboard, and at least one cover positioned on the floorboard such that corresponding portions of the cover are received and retained within the channels defined by the couplings.
2. The deck of claim 1 wherein the cover includes a pair of opposed side portions each having at least one opening therein for venting an area between the floorboard and the cover when the cover is positioned on the floorboard.
3. The deck of claim 2 wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges, each of the overhangs projecting downwardly to at least a location of the corresponding at least one opening.
4. The deck of claim 1 wherein each of the channels slopes generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.
5. The deck of claim 1 wherein each of the couplings include a lower surface within its channel sloping generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.

6. The deck of claim 1 wherein each of the channels includes an inwardly bent portion engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover.

7. The deck of claim 1 further comprising at least one joist below the floorboard and engaged with the couplings.

8. The deck of claim 1 wherein each of the couplings includes at least one fastener slot.

9. The deck of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of floorboards, and wherein at least one of the couplings is positioned between and in contact with each corresponding pair of the floorboards and sized to provide generally uniform spacing between the floorboards.

10. The deck of claim 1 wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

11. A system for covering a board, the board having a pair of opposed sides, the system comprising at least one cover, and at least two couplings each of which is adjacent a corresponding one of the pair of opposed sides of the board, each of the couplings defining a channel adapted to receive and retain therein a corresponding portion of the cover when the cover is positioned on the board.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the cover includes a pair of opposed side portions each having at least one opening therein for venting an area between the board and the cover when the cover is positioned on the board.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges and an overhang extending generally outwardly from each of the side edges, each of the overhangs projecting downwardly to at least a location of the corresponding at least one opening.

14. The system of claim 11 wherein each of the channels include a lower surface defining at least one opening therethrough for allowing a liquid to drain out of the channel.

15. The system of claim 11 wherein each of the channels slopes generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.

16. The system of claim 11 wherein each of the channels includes an inwardly bent portion engageable with a corresponding inwardly bent portion of the cover.

17. The system of claim 11 further comprising at least one other board below the board and engaged with the couplings.

18. The system of claim 11 wherein each of the couplings includes at least one fastener slot.

19. The system of claim 11 wherein the cover includes a top portion having a pair of opposed side edges, a middle portion, and an upper surface sloping generally downwardly from the middle portion towards the side edges.

20. A method for covering a deck comprising engaging at least a first coupling, at least a second coupling, and at least one floorboard with at least one joist such that each of the first and second couplings is adjacent a corresponding one of a pair of opposed sides of the floorboard, and positioning a cover on the floorboard such that portions of the cover are received and retained within channels defined by the first and second couplings.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising allowing a liquid to flow off of a top portion of the cover into at least one of the channels, and discharging liquid from within the channel.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the discharging comprises draining liquid from the channel through at least one opening defined through a lower surface of the channel.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein the discharging comprises providing the channel with a generally downward slope towards an open end of the channel to allow liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.

24. The method of claim 20 further comprising venting an area between the cover and the floorboard when the cover is positioned on the floorboard.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein the engaging comprises positioning at least one coupling between and in contact with each corresponding pair of floorboards to provide generally uniform spacing between the floorboards.

26. The method of claim 20 wherein the engaging comprising mechanically fastening the couplings and the floorboard to the joist.